

Message Text

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TAGS: FAO, EAID, AORG
SUBJ: PROPOSED AID/AFRICA POSITION IN ROME

1. SHEAR OF AID, AFRICA BUREAU DISCUSSED DECEMBER 15 WITH US REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO NORRED AND AID DEVELOPMENT OFFICER VICTOR SKILES THE DECEMBER 4 DRAFT PROPOSAL OF THE AID/AFRICAN BUREAU FOR A POSITION IN ROME.

2. NORRED AND SKILES RECOGNIZED THAT INCREASED US EMPHASIS ON LONG-RANGE PROGRAMS FOR THE SAYEL AND PARTICIPATION IN THE CLUB DES AMIS DU SAYEL ARE CRATING A NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MANPOWER. TO PUT THIS IN PERSPECTIVE, NORRED REFERRD TO THE LONG-STANDING OLAN FOR A POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL OFFICER IN HIS OFFICE FROM THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT, WHICH REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN AGREED UPON BETWEEN STATE AND AGRICULTURE, BUT WHICH AGRICULTURE HAS NOT TO DATE BEEN ABLE TO FUND. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) IS ALSO INCREASING THE WORK LOAD OF THE OFFICE.
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WHEN IFAD BEGINS OPERATION, MORE INTENSIVE WORK WILL BE REQUIRED, EVEN IF THE MEETINGS ARE SERVICED BY OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON.
3. NORRED TOOK THE POSITION THAT ANY ADDITIONAL STAFF TO DEAL WITH AFRICAN ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE PART OF AN INTEGRATED AID COMPONENT WITHIN HIS OFFICE. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AID/AFRICAN BUREAU POSITION WOULD INVOLVE GENERAL AID ACTIVITIES

AND COLLABORATION WITH THE FAO AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM WHICH HAVE MANY PROGRAMS INVOLVED WITH AFRICA. FURTHERMORE, THE DEVELOPING IFAD ACTIVITY WILL ALSO BE OF INTEREST TO THAT BUREAU. NORRED SUGGESTED THAT THE AID/AFRICA BUREAU' NEEDS COULD AND SHOULD BE MET BY AN ADDITIONAL OFFICER IN AN INTEGRATED AID COMPONENT WITHIN HIS OFFICE. THEN IT WOULD BE SIMPLY A MATTER OF ASSIGNMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL OFFICER TO THE OFFICE OF FAO AFFAIRS WITHIN EXISTING STRUCTURES. THIS WOULD OBVIATE THE NEED FOR ANY DETAILED AGREEMENT BETWEEN BUREAUS IN WASHINGTON ON OPERATIONS. THE AID/AFRICA BUREAU'S OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS WOULD PASS THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO WITHOUT DELAY, AND THOSE INVOLVING POLICY QUESTIONS WOULD BE COORDINATED EXPEDITIOUSLY WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE AID COMPONENT AND THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE.

4. THE AID/AFRICA BUREAU PROPOSAL OF A LOCAL SECRETARY RAISES PHYSICAL PROBLEMS. LOCALS DO WORK IN THE ANNEX BUILDING IN WHICH THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE'S AND AID COMPONENT'S OFFICES ARE LOCATED, BUT THEY DO NOT WORK DIRECTLY IN THOSE OFFICES. TO HIRE A LOCAL IN THOSE OFFICES, PARTICULARLY WITH THE ROTATION OF LARGE CONFERENCE DELEGATIONS, WOULD CREATE A SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEM. NORRED SUGGESTED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A LOCAL HIRE, PART-TIME AMERICAN SECRETARY BE CONSIDERED.

5. THERE WAS SOME DISAGREEMENT ON ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE WITHIN FAO, ALTHOUGH NEITHER NORRED NOR SHEAR TOOK A RIGID POSITION ON THE QUESTION. NORRED IS CONCERNED ABOUT A) MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE IN THE PROPOSED COLLABORATION OF THE UNITED STATES WITH FAO, B) NOT STIMULATING INTEREST OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS IN POSSIBLE US-FAO ARRANGEMENTS PARALLEL UNCLASSIFIED

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TO THE CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL, B) NOT AROUSING OBJECTIONS FROM MANY OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES OF FAO ABOUT US OFFICE SPACE IN FAO' AND D) DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN US NATIONALS SECONDED TO THE FAO AND US NATIONALS WORKING FOR THE US GOVERNMENT ON FAO MATTERS. SHEAR POINTED OUT THAT THE WORKING RELATIONS ARE OPERATIONAL IN CHARACTER, AND WOULD SUFFER FROM PHYSICAL SEPARATION. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN ELSEWHERE, WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. NO QUERY HAS YET BEEN MADE OF FAO, WHICH IS SHORT OF SPACE BUT POSSIBLY COULD MANAGE TO FIND SPACE FOR AN IMPORTANT ACTIVITY. IT WAS AGREED THAT NORRED AND SKILES WILL EXPLORE TACTFULLY WITH FAO THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME DESK SPACE IN FAO, BUT NOT A PUBLICIZED AID/AFRICA BUREAU OFFICE. IF THIS ARRANGEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT, IT WILL STILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE POSITION TO HAVE AN OFFICE AND CLEAR LINE OF COMMUNICATION THROUGH THE AID COMPONENT AND THE US REPRESENTATIVE TO WASHINGTON.

6. NORRED HAS RAISED THESE QUESTIONS IN PRELIMINARY FASHION WITH THE CHARGE, WHO SUPPORTS ABOVE SUGGESTIONS AND WISHES TO MEET WITH SHEAR AT LATER STAGE WHEN ABOVE IDEAS HAVE BEEN WORKED INTO AID'S THINKING. SINCE SHEAR WILL BE PASSING THROUGH ROME AGAIN IN MID-JANUARY, HE AND THE EMBASSY WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER DURING HIS JANUARY VISIT.BAUDRY

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